



California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	06-04-01	Interpretation #	01-006
Topic	Hood and Duct Fire Extinguishing Systems		
Code Section(s)	§2.3.2, NFPA Standard 10 (1998 edition)		
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If a kitchen hood and duct fire extinguishing system's extinguishing agent cylinder is due for hydrostatic testing, does that initiate the requirement for a new system since many fire extinguisher service companies do not yet have the new extinguishing agent for Class K hazards, and, therefore, will not refill the old system?

No. We cannot locate any code requirement that would mandate a new system at the time the agent cylinder is due for a hydrostatic test. However, there are conditions that might indicate that replacement is needed. For instance, many of the older dry chemical kitchen hood and duct extinguishing systems are no longer serviceable. Manufacturers have not maintained Underwriters Laboratories (UL) listings on many of these products and most no longer offer replacement parts or recharge materials. Where these conditions exist, the manufacturer recommends that the system be replaced with a new system that is tested and listed to the current UL Standard 300.

The State Fire Marshal anticipates that the proposed revision to California regulations for portable fire extinguishers will be effective on January 1, 2002. In this proposed code language is a new Class K fire hazard classification for the hazard produced from cooking appliances that use combustible cooking media (vegetable or animal fats or oils). NFPA has determined that a listed and labeled wet chemical fire extinguishing agent best protects commercial cooking appliances using combustible cooking media.

However, the proposed SFM regulations are not applicable to fixed kitchen hood and duct fire extinguishing systems. Regulations for the maintenance and servicing of these systems are addressed in Section 901, Title 19, California Code of Regulations. However, prudence dictates that we recognize the new Class K hazard and protect against it using nationally recognized standards (such as NFPA). The proposed regulations for portable fire extinguishers addresses this concern in that the portable fire

extinguisher required in the kitchen for the protection of cooking appliances must be listed and labeled for Class K hazards regardless of the type of extinguishing agent contained in the cylinder of the fixed extinguishing system.

Therefore, approved extinguishing agents other than those listed for Class K hazards may continue to be utilized in a hood and duct system. However, it is the agent used in the portable fire extinguisher located in the kitchen area that will be required to comply with the Class K rating.